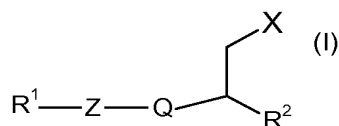


Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

What is claimed is:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A compound of formula (I):



wherein:

R¹ is optionally substituted -C₄₋₁₂ alkyl, -C₂₋₁₀alkylcycloalkyl, C₂₋₆alkylheterocycloalkyl, -C₂₋₆alkylaryl, optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl, ~~with the proviso~~ **provided** that R² ~~in is~~ not pyridinyl;

Z is a bond, CH₂, O, S, SO, SO₂, NR⁴, OCR⁴R⁵ or CR⁴R⁵O; or Z, R¹ and Q together form an optionally substituted fused tricyclic group;

Q is ~~an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl ring~~ **unsubstituted phenyl**;

X is ~~CO~~³ **COOH**;

R² is CONH₂, ~~CO₂H, CO₂R⁷, SO₂R⁷ or SO₂NR⁸R⁹,~~
~~provided that R² is not CO₂R⁷, when X is CONH₂;~~

R³ is OR⁶ or NR⁸R⁹;

R⁴ and R⁵ each independently is H, C₁₋₆ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkylaryl;

R⁶ is H or C₁₋₆ alkyl;

R⁷ is C₁₋₆ alkyl; and

R⁸ and R⁹ each independently is H or C₁₋₆ alkyl; or R⁸ and R⁹ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5- or 6- membered ring which ~~may~~ optionally includes 1 or more further heteroatoms selected from O, S and N; or

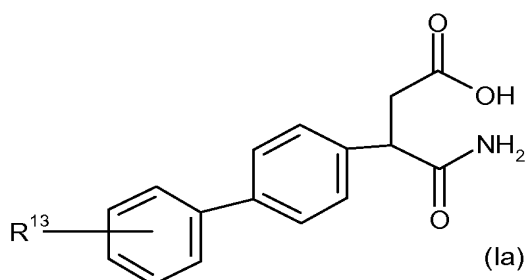
physiologically functional derivatives thereof

~~provided that formula (I) compounds are not:~~

~~[3-(acetyl-amino)-4-cyclohexylphenyl]-butanedioic acid and 3-(acetyl-amino)-4-cyclohexylphenyl]-butanedioic acid diethyl ether;~~
~~butanedioic acid [3-methoxy-4-(phenylmethoxy)phenyl]; or~~
~~butanedioic acid [4-(phenylmethoxy)phenyl]; and~~

further provided that when R¹ is C₄₋₁₂alkyl, Z is other than a bond, O or CH₂, ~~or physiologically functional derivatives thereof.~~

2. (Cancelled).
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Currently Amended) A compound ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, wherein Z represents a bond or O.
5. (Currently Amended) A compound ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1 of formula (Ia):



wherein: _____

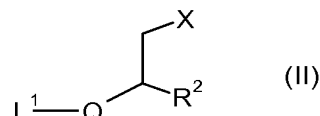
___R¹³ is H, halo, CF₃, -OCF₃, cyano, nitro, OR¹⁴, SR¹⁵ or COR¹⁶; and

___R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁶ independently are H, C₁₋₆ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkylaryl; or physiologically functional derivatives thereof.

6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~the~~ treatment of a human or animal subject suffering from ~~or susceptible to~~ an inflammatory disease or an autoimmune disorder, which ~~method~~ comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

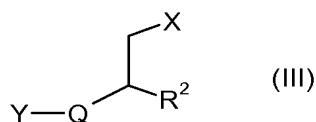
10. **(Previously Presented)** A process for preparation of compounds of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, wherein the process comprises:

(A) preparing a compound of formula (I), wherein Z is a bond and R¹ is an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl, by reacting a compound of formula (II):



wherein R², Q and X are as previously defined for formula (I) and L¹ is a leaving group, with a reagent suitable to introduce the group R¹; or

(B) (i) preparing a compound of formula (I), wherein Z is O, S, SO, SO₂, NR⁴ or OCR⁴R⁵, by reacting a compound of formula (III):



wherein R², Q and X are as previously defined for formula (I) and Y is OH, SH, NHR⁴ or HO-CR⁴R⁵, with a compound of formula (IV):



wherein R¹ is defined above for compounds of formula (I) and L² represents a leaving group; and

(ii) wherein Y is -SH, optionally followed by oxidizing the Y group to the corresponding SO or SO₂ group as required; or

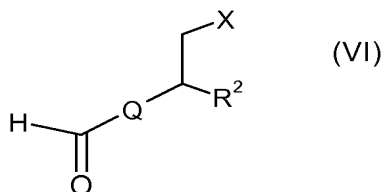
(C) preparing a compound of formula (I), wherein Z is -CR⁴R⁵O-, by reacting a compound of formula (III), wherein Y is -OH, with a compound of formula (V):



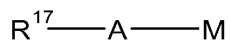
wherein R^1 , R^4 , R^5 are defined above for compounds of formula (I) and L^3 represents a leaving group; or

(D) preparing a compound of formula (I), wherein Z is CH_2 and R^1 is an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl, by reacting

(i) a compound of formula (VI):



wherein Q, X and R^2 are as defined above, with an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl nucleophile, which is a compound of formula (VII):



(VII)

wherein A is a 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl, R^{17} is H or one or more substituents and M is a metal and

(ii) reducing and eliminating ~~of the~~ a resultant or product alcohol formed from step (i); and,

(E) optionally deprotecting compounds of formula (I) with a protecting group.